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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

June 5, 2000

Dear Colleague:

As you may know, the Global Positioning System (GPS) is being integrated into more and more applications that benefit our daily lives. The satellite constellation, operated by the Department of Defense, and its augmentation systems, operated in large part by the Department of Transportation, provide highly accurate positioning and timing information free of charge to users throughout the United States and around the globe. This information is used to serve numerous military and civilian needs. For example, the aviation community uses GPS for improved situational awareness, trucking and taxicab companies use it to track fleets of vehicles, and police and paramedics use it to rapidly pinpoint the locations of 9-1-1 emergency cell phone calls. Recreational users apply GPS for hiking, fishing and boating, and GPS time is increasingly used to synchronize message traffic on the Internet.

We write to invite you and your staff to a trade fair which will highlight the uses of GPS, along with information about how future augmentations will improve GPS. This event, sponsored by the Department of Transportation, the U.S. GPS Industry Council, the Spatial Technologies Industry Association and the Interagency GPS Executive Board, will be held in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building on June 20th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information booths on a range of topics are expected from both government and industry, and a buffet lunch will be served at the noon hour.

This event presents an opportunity for you and your staff to gain valuable insight into a proven and expanding public utility. We hope you will be able to attend.

Sincerely

Senator John McCain

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Chairman

nator Ernest F. Hollings

Rankin Member